

Delta Independent Science Board Educational Briefing Questionnaire

Please provide short written responses to the following:

1. Program Title: Municipal Water Quality Program Branch
2. Lead Agency/Department for Program: Department of Water Resources (Department)/Division of Environmental Services
3. Brief Description of Program: The Municipal Water Quality Program Branch manages multiple sections that study and monitor Delta water quality since the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta provides drinking water for more than 25 million people in California.
 - a. The Municipal Water Quality Investigations (MWQI) section was established to evaluate the suitability of Delta water as a drinking water source, to identify sources of water quality degradation, and to evaluate means of eliminating or preventing degradation. Participants in the program include the municipal water contractors of the State Water Project and Contra Costa Water District. Program advisors include representatives of participating agencies, the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA), the California Department of Health Services, and California Urban Water Agencies.
 - b. The Water Quality Special Studies section was established to provide expert consultation and technical assistance to Department and Branch staff, provide continued support of the Delta Real Time Data and Forecasting Comprehensive Program (RTDF-CP) of water quality forecasting, and support the ongoing special studies conducted within the Municipal Water Quality Program.
 - c. The Field Support section was established to provide sample plan design, and sample collection support to the Water Quality Special Studies and Municipal Water Quality Investigation sections.
 - d. The Quality Assurance/Quality Control section was established to assess the quality assurance is used in the Department's chemical and physical measurements, data collection, and data measurement and management activities. All of the Departments, Divisions, districts, field division, contractors and agency cooperatives performing measurement activities receive support from this section.
4. Purpose and Objectives of Program: The current MWQI section has expanded from monitoring, problem identification, and assessment to working towards Delta water quality trend analysis. The Water Quality Special Studies section supports and promotes the RTDF-CP. The Branch goal is to enhance coordination, collaboration and resource sharing between the various DWR water quality monitoring groups and with outside agencies and entities generating drinking water quality data and /or requiring real time data to increase efficiency within their organizations. There are seven elements associated with this effort, 1) organizational coordination and collaboration between DWR monitoring and forecasting groups; 2) organizational coordination and collaboration with outside agencies to enhance real time monitoring activities; 3) real time data acquisition through monitoring; 4) enhancement of forecasting and fingerprinting of drinking water quality through use of computer models; 5) information management and dissemination; 6) emergency response

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preparedness as related to drinking water quality, and; 7) scientific support studies that examine drinking water quality issues of concern.

5. Timeline for Program Objectives: The Municipal Water Quality Program Branch has an established workplan that is updated every two years with timelines varying by project.
6. Current Status of Program: Active
7. Contact Information for Lead Staff of this Program:

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Title	Environmental Program Manager
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8. Associated Total Annual Budget for Program: \$3.1 Million for the Municipal Water Quality Investigations section and \$600,000 for the Quality Assurance/Quality Control section.
9. URL, if a Website is Available: <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterquality/drinkingwater/>
10. How does adaptive management play a role in your program? This program works closely with the municipal drinking water contractors of the State Water Project and Contra Costa Water District in a structured, interactive process of optimal decision-making in the face of uncertain water quality within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and with an aim to reducing uncertainty over time via systems monitoring of water quality in and around the Delta and its watersheds. Through monthly meetings, stakeholders are kept apprised of ongoing monitoring and research results. This feedback loop provides an environment for improvements and changes to study design. Outside experts and Program advisers also provide feedback. To ensure that research projects and real-time monitoring are meeting stakeholder research and monitoring needs, the program creates a yearly workplan that is produced in collaboration with its stakeholders. Tasks in the workplan reflect the research and monitoring needs of the stakeholders.
11. Any additional information that would be helpful to understand the program: The current MWQ Program also provides technical and advisory resources for reviews of plans, designs, permits, and reports on Delta sustainability, long term conservation strategies, potential habitat restoration and water conveyance options as well as water quality monitoring support for ongoing efforts such as Delta habitat, tidal marsh, and levee restoration efforts, and the Bay Delta conservation plan.

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Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire. Please return your completed questionnaire to Gina Ford (gina.ford@deltacouncil.ca.gov) no later than October 6, 2011.